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So extremely hypothetical, from palæontological considerations, is the evidence of so-called "interglacial periods," referred to on p. 29, that we wonder that our author should endorse Dr. Croll's speculations without stating some of the facts supposed to sustain such a view.

The age of the earth is, from facts relating to erosion, set down as "not much less than 100,000,000 years since the earliest forms of life appeared upon the earth, and the oldest stratified rocks began to be laid down;" this length of time, from the standpoint of physics, as advocated by Sir William Thompson, is the same, while Tait's estimate of fifteen or twenty millions is given, although based on "results confessedly less emphatic than those derived from the facts of erosion, of physics and of tidal retardation."

The author treats of the upheaval of land under dynamical geology, but reserves his brief discussion of the mode of elevation of mountain chains and of continents for the section on physiography; we should think all these subjects would come under the head of dynamical geology. Neither has he apparently availed himself of Darwin's and Mr. A. Agassiz's facts concerning the secular rise of the South American continent. He devotes less than a page to the grand theme of the evolution of the American continent; and in this part of the book we feel that Professor Geikie has not risen to the grandeur of the subject.

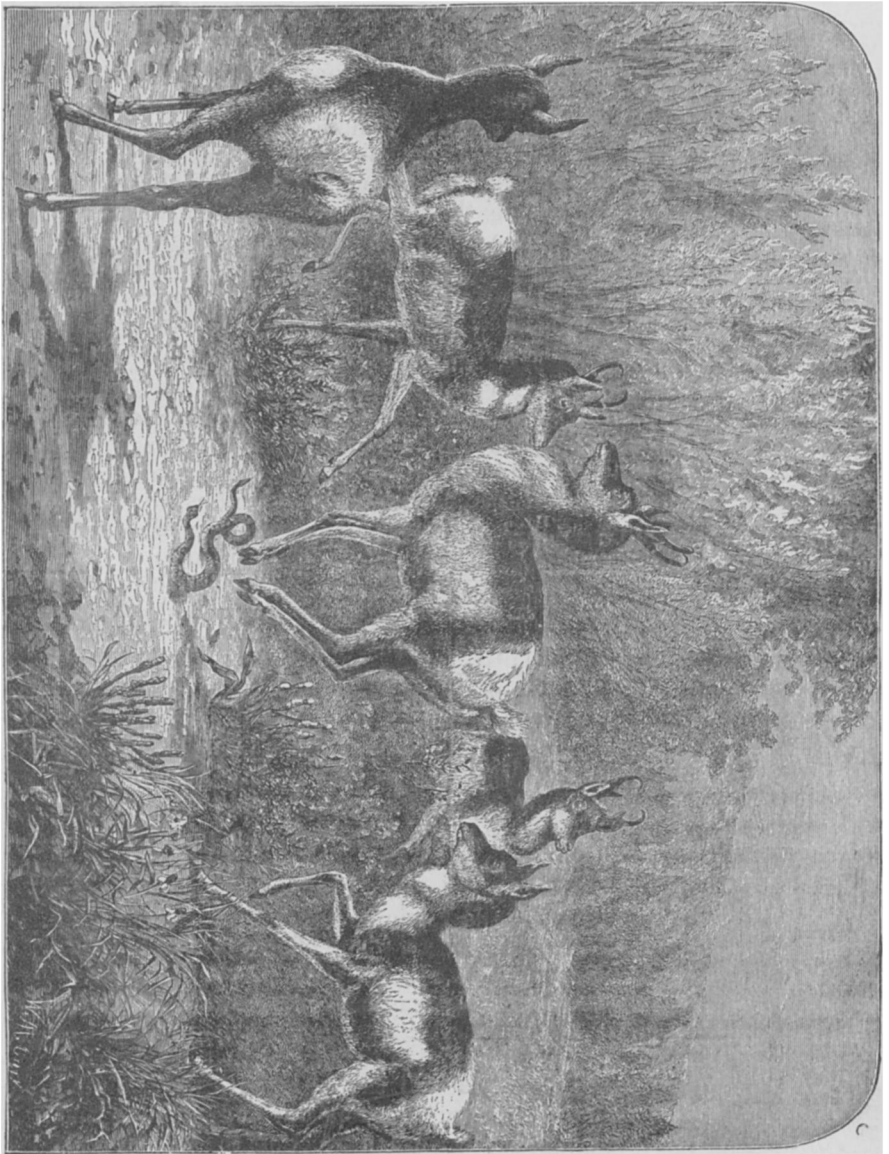
The care and elegance of the author's style; the generally excellent and apt illustrations; the typographical appearance of the book, allow little or no room for criticism. One geographical blunder is hardly excusable, especially as it is about a place in British possessions, though apparently inevitable in British authors (on p. 732, where "Canada" should read St. John, N. B.). On p. 801, after "Colorado," should be added the words, "and Wyoming."

While this Text-book of Geology does not, like Lyell's Elements and Principles, inculcate a great doctrine in geology, such as uniformitarianism; nor, like Dana's Manual, tell the story of the evolution of a continent, yet it is written in a graceful, attractive style, and presents in a comprehensive and sensible way the ground facts of the science.

INGERSOLL'S KNOCKING ROUND THE ROCKIES.¹—This rather jaunty title sufficiently expresses the sketchy and fragmentary nature of an entertaining series of spirited sketches of nature and life in the Rocky mountains. Mr. Ingersoll was in 1874 attached to Dr. Hayden's U. S. Geological and Geographical Survey of the Territories, and afterwards made other trips to Colorado, accounts of which were contributed to *Harper's Magazine* and other

¹ *Knocking round the Rockies.* By ERNEST INGERSOLL. Illustrated. New York, Harper & Brothers, 1883. Large 8vo, pp. 220. \$2.

periodicals and newspapers. These he has gathered into this volume, adding a number of excellent illustrations which add



Pronghorn Antelopes killing a Rattlesnake

materially to the interest of the book, making an admirable holiday present to a boy of sixteen. For here we have the romance as well as the stern realities of wild life in the West; traveling

and hunting on the plains, seeking for gold in the cañons, bear-hunting and exploring on the mountains, and glimpses of Indian and of military life at reservations and army posts. The sketches are true to life, and are much better reading for youth than the ordinary hunting romances which are written by the successors of Captain Mayne Reid. The illustrations are capital, particularly those engraved on wood. The accompanying engraving of pronghorns killing a rattlesnake by jumping upon it, is a fair example of the illustrations. The author refers to it without, however, describing the incident. Particularly good also are the sketches entitled "shooting the bighorns," that representing a fight between an elk and a buffalo, and another depicting the tragic result; the full-page illustration of a group of mule deer is good, while all the illustrations, as well as the press-work, are excellent. Mr. Ingersoll is an ornithologist, and scatters through the book sketches of his feathered friends.

FLOWER'S FASHION IN DEFORMITY.¹—That some of the fashions of the highest civilization of the present day are dependent on grave deformities of the body, almost goes without saying. The hideous fact is only relieved by the knowledge that most if not all savage and barbarous peoples have their fashions, which are only more exacting and unaccountable than those of the European races. The wearing of earrings has descended to us from our savage ancestors. The bandaging and strange deformity of the head still practiced in France in the neighborhood of Toulouse, and common in many parts of the continent, and even observed in England within the memory of living people, and which produces an elongated and laterally constructed form of the head, is the same in kind with the more marked deformities produced by the Flat-head Indians and the ancient Peruvians. Professor Flower shows that the present high-heeled style of lady's shoe is only less injurious in its effects than the Chinese lady's foot, and that the pointed shoes worn by men likewise injure the shape and usefulness of the foot. Perhaps, however, the most grave and alarming deformity has been reserved for the highest civilization and for the feminine leaders of society; we refer to the wearing of tight corsets. The effects of this practice are too well known, but a glance at *Harper's Bazar* for September, teaches us that tight-lacing was never more demanded by fashion than now. The admirable and judicious little work of Professor Flower calls fresh attention to the fact that in admiring the constricted waist of ladies and the symmetrically pointed shoes of men of fashion, "we are opposing our judgment to that of the Maker of our bodies; we are neglecting the criterion afforded by nature; we are departing from the highest standard of

¹ Nature Series. Fashion and Deformity, as illustrated in the customs of barbarous and civilized races. By William Henry Flower, LL.D., F.R.S., etc. With illustrations. London: Macmillan & Co., 1881. 12mo, pp. 85. Price, 75 cents.